

REMARKS

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

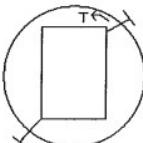
Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the head can be placed over an end portion of the stem as at lines 4-5 of claim 27. Thus, the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,656,225 to Martin ("Martin").

Independent claims 1, 8, 27 and 31 have been amended to recite that the side surface of the end portion of the stem has a curved periphery when viewed in a cross-section transverse to the axis of the stem. This feature can be seen in element 54 in Figure 11 of the present application.

In contrast, a transverse cross-section of the mounting portion 14 of the stem 10 of the device of Martin has a periphery of straight line sections. If one were to use screws to assemble the outer shell 30 to the mounting portion 14 of the stem 10 of the device of Martin as suggested in the Office Action, there is the chance that a screw would engage a corner or a region near a corner of the mounting portion of the stem creating undesirable torque T on the stem. See below.



In the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 8, 27 and 31, the curved periphery of the end portion of the stem assures that the screws will engage the end portion of the stem at a right angle thereby eliminating any unwanted torque on the stem.

Thus, the invention recited in amended independent claim 1 (and claims 2 and 4-7 that depend thereon), amended independent claim 8 (and claims 9 and 10 that depend thereon), amended independent claim 27 (and claims 28-30 that depend thereon) and amended independent claim 31 (and claims 32 and 33 that depend thereon) includes a feature not shown or suggested in Martin that provides advantages over the device of Martin. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Martin has been overcome by the amendments above.

Conclusion

It is believed that the entire application is in a condition for allowance. No fees are believed to be due. If any fees are needed, the fees may be charged to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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